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OLC 71-1149

2 November 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Director's Conversation with Dr. Kissinger re  
Laos Program

Today the Director told me of a conversation yesterday with Dr. Kissinger during which it was agreed that Dr. Kissinger would meet with Senator John Stennis and seek his agreement to arrangements for funding the Agency program in Laos [redacted] but continuing the Agency's executive responsibility for running the program.

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[redacted]  
JOHN M. MAURY

Legislative Counsel

Distribution:

Original - Subject - White House

1 - Chrono

1 - Sen. Stennis file

(1) - Laos file

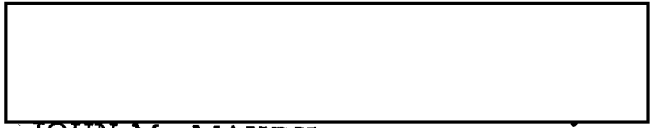
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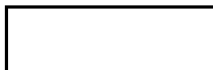
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9. (Confidential - GLC) John Lehman, of the White House staff, called to determine those sections of the bill which were of particular concern to the Agency. I told him that we were concerned about a number of sections of the bill as were other members of the Executive Branch, but we had special problems with Section 405(b) concerning responsibilities of departments and agencies with respect to the Foreign Relations and Foreign Affairs Committees and with Section 655 which applied to Cambodia, the amendment previously placed in the Military Procurement Act by Symington establishing a ceiling on operations in Laos. It developed that Lehman did not have a copy of the bill as reported out or of the Committee report and copies of these documents were forwarded to him.

  
JOHN M. MAURY  
Legislative Counsel

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cc:  
ER  
O/DDCI



Mr. Houston  
Mr. Goodwin  
DDI  
DDS  
DDS&T  
EA/DDP  
OPPB  
Chief, FE

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25X1A 7. (Confidential - JGO) Talked to Messrs. Robert Wattles, ADDS, Howard Osborn, D/S, and [ ] ADD/SEC, and made arrangements for delivery of a new safe to the House Appropriations Committee for use in safekeeping of Agency classified material. At the request of Mr. Ralph Preston, of the Appropriations Committee staff, delivery will be delayed until next week.

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25X1A 8. (Confidential - JGO) Talked to Miss Fran Christy, House Immigration and Naturalization Committee staff, who told me that [ ] a bill for the relief of [ ] will be on the Committee agenda for meeting on 4 November. In keeping with the request of the Committee Chairman, an Agency representative should be available at the Committee in the event questions are raised by the Chairman or members of the Committee during consideration of this bill.

25X1 9. (Secret - GLC) I gave John Goldsmith, Senate Armed Services Committee staff, the appropriate briefing for his access clearance to compartmented information and he executed the necessary security oaths. 25X1

[ ]  
given [ ] 25X1  
[ ] then transferred to the Agency which would still administer the programs. Braswell said he did not consider this a satisfactory solution to the problem proposed by Senator Stennis' letter.

25X1 In response to our query about the status of the Symington amendment to the Military Procurement Act, Braswell said he understood that the House Armed Services Committee did not appear to have any serious objections to the Symington amendment. Braswell added, however, that he saw no difficulty in taking care of the Agency's problems with respect to the amendment. (Subsequent conversations between [ ] and Mr. Maurice 25X1A Lanman, Assistant General Counsel (Fiscal Matters), Department of Defense, would seem to indicate that the House Committee staff had some negative reaction to proposals made by Mr. Fred Buzhardt, General Counsel, DOD, with regard to the amendment.)

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9. (Secret - GLC) Met with Jim Woolsey, Senate Armed Services Committee staff, and gave him a copy of the Symington amendment with the changes I had provided him yesterday by phone. I advised him that

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there was "no way" that they would get this information from the Pentagon. He acknowledged receipt of the DOD reclama statement recommending against acceptance of the Symington amendment but said this was totally unrealistic in view of Senator Symington's strong feelings about the amendment and the support he has gotten from Chairman Stennis for a ceiling on Laotian expenditures.

10. (Confidential - GLC) Talked several times during the day with [REDACTED] and Houston about developments concerning the Symington amendment to the Military Procurement Act, and late in the afternoon I left with Frank Slatinshek, Assistant Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, a statement on the problems which the Symington amendment would create for the Agency. In response to his request, I also gave him a copy of suggested changes in the language of the amendment which we feel would eliminate the problems described in our paper. Slatinshek said he would go over the paper and be back in touch with us later on.

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11. (Secret - GLC) Met briefly with Bill Woodruff, Senate Appropriations Committee, to advise him of our contacts with House and Senate Armed Services Committee staffs on the Symington amendment. Woodruff said he had seen Ed Braswell this morning and again expressed to Braswell his displeasure with Senator Stennis' letter to the President in which he said he would not support CIA funds for operations in Laos after FY 1972. He told me Stennis' letter was obviously a move by Braswell to unload the problem from the Armed Services Committee, passing the buck to Appropriations. He said he was strongly considering discussing with Ralph Preston the desirability of having all funds for

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Chairmen Ellender and Mahon and would have the effect of restoring the status quo. (All of the above is consistent with Woodruff's earlier statement to us that there just isn't another element in the Executive Branch who can handle the Laotian problem.)

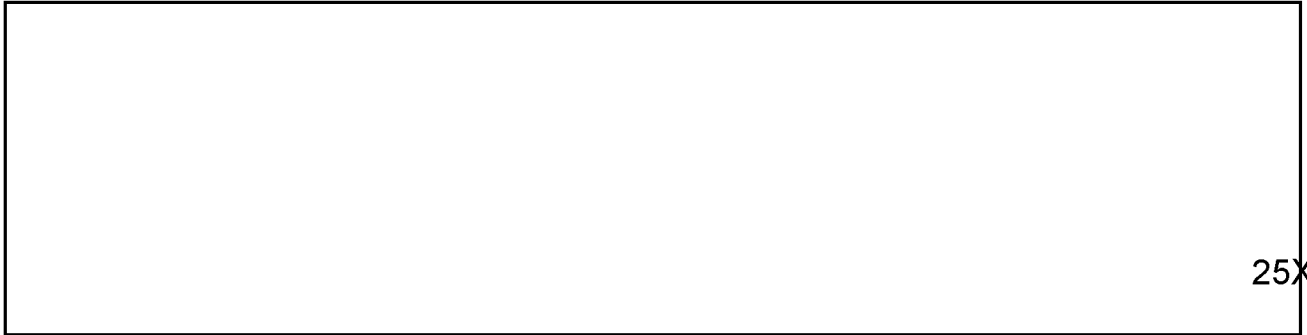
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14. (Secret - GLC) Talked to Bill Woodruff, Senate Appropriations Committee staff, about a time for Mr. Duckett to brief him on a sensitive overhead reconnaissance program. Woodruff said that since his work has accelerated considerably he has decided to put this over until a later date. He said he would be back in touch with us on it.

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